

REMARKS

Claim 2 - 4 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim 2 remains rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over The Background Art of the specification of this application Part 2 from pages 5-6(hereinafter Background) in view of Langford et al. (6650516 B2).

The Applicants amend claim 2 and request reconsideration.

Claim 2 has been amended to further clarify the scope of the invention.

Current amendments to Claim 2 are supported at least by paragraph [0032] of US 2006/0202556-A1.

The Applicants respectfully submit that prior art 2 discussed in the background section of the present Specification, which the Examiner referred to in rejecting the claim, is related to an apparatus in which a load becomes small upon turning off the electric power. In such a case, it is very clear that the contacts may not open in an apparatus in which a load does not become small upon turning off the electric power. In other words, the prior art 2 does not deal with the situation in which the load does not become small

In the apparatus according to the present invention, it is necessary to always supply the electric power in order to resist the gravity. Namely, in a case that the prior art 2 is employed in the present invention, even if an operator tries to turn off the electric power, it is impossible to open the contacts, since a load does not become small.

If a predetermined value for determining whether or not the contacts are opened is as large as the rated load, it is possible to open the contacts upon turning off the electric power.

However, an arc is produced between the contacts upon opening the contacts. (please refer to paragraphs [0005] and [0008] of Us-2006-0202556-A1).

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 6, 2009

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